

## IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

MARCH 16, 1822.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of  
Richard Woodland,

## REPORT:

That the petitioner states he was an inhabitant of Dorchester county, Maryland, and, in the year 1814, was the owner of a schooner called the Betsey, between thirty and forty tons burthen; of the value of about twelve hundred dollars. That in the summer of the same year, she lay in the Patuxent river, at the time the United States flotilla, commanded by commodore Barney, was blockaded there; that, to avoid the enemy, she was carried up the river near to Peg Point, where she lay when the united flotilla was destroyed, by order of the United States' officers. The petitioner's vessel was destroyed at the same time; but whether it was destroyed by our own officers, by the enemy, or in consequence of its contiguity to the flotilla when it was burnt, he is unable to state. He prays Congress to pass a law, allowing the value of the vessel.

The committee are of opinion, that the claim of the petitioner does not come within the usual rule of allowance. The destruction of his vessel is one of the casualties of war, in which individual sacrifice must yield to the public good. The particular manner of its destruction is not proved; nor is it distinctly stated by whom it was done. The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

